

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

REGINALD EDWARD SPEARMAN,
Plaintiff,
v.
SAM BERRI TOWING, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No.: 1:22-cv-00086-JLT-SKO (PC)

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO REOPEN
CASE

(Doc. 20)

Plaintiff Reginald Edward Spearman asks the Court to reopen this closed case. (Doc. 20.) Plaintiff initiated this action on July 9, 2021, by filing a complaint in the Sacramento division of this Court.¹ (Doc. 1.) On September 8, 2021, Magistrate Judge Dennis M. Cota issued Findings and Recommendations to dismiss the action for failure to state a claim. (Doc. 9.) On September 16, 2021, Plaintiff filed objections to the Findings and Recommendations. (Doc. 10.) On September 29, 2021, the Court issued an Order vacating the Findings and Recommendations (Doc. 11) and an Order dismissing Plaintiff's complaint with leave to amend (Doc. 12). On October 18, 2021, Plaintiff filed his first amended complaint. (Doc. 13.)

On January 21, 2022, the Court issued an Order transferring this action from the Sacramento division to the Fresno division, as the allegations giving rise to Plaintiff's claims took place in Calaveras County, which falls within the area served by the Fresno division. (Doc. 14.)

¹ The action was originally assigned case number 2:21-cv-01214-DMC (PC).

1 That same date, this Court issued its First Informational Order In Prisoner/Civil Detainee Civil
2 Rights Case, reflecting case number 1:22-cv-00086-SKO (PC). (Doc. 15.)

3 On February 15, 2022, the orders issued on January 21, 2022, were returned by the United
4 States Postal Service marked as “Undeliverable, Not in Custody, Unable to Forward.” (Docket
5 Entry dated 2/15/22.)

6 On April 26, 2022, Magistrate Judge Sheila K. Oberto issued Findings and
7 Recommendations to Dismiss for a Failure to Prosecute. (Doc. 17.) Specifically, the Court found
8 that in failing to keep the Court apprised of his current address, the Court was unable to
9 communicate with Plaintiff and he was failing to prosecute the action. (*Id.* at 2-3.) The Court
10 recommended the action be dismissed without prejudice and provided Plaintiff with 14 days from
11 the date of service within which to file objections. (*Id.* at 3-4.) Plaintiff was advised that a failure
12 to file objections would result in a waiver of his right to challenge the magistrate’s findings on
13 appeal, citing to *Wilkerson v. Wheeler*, 772 F.3d 834, 839 (9th Cir. 2014). (*Id.*)

14 On May 11, 2022, the April 26, 2022 findings were returned by the United States Postal
15 Service marked as “Undeliverable, Return to Sender, Not in Custody.” (Docket Entry dated
16 5/11/22.)

17 On May 19, 2022, the undersigned issued an Order Adopting Findings and
18 Recommendations to Dismiss for a Failure to Prosecute, noting Plaintiff’s failure to file a notice
19 of change of address or to take any further action to prosecute this matter. (Doc. 18.) The action
20 was dismissed without prejudice. (*Id.* at 2.) Judgment was entered that same date (Doc. 19) and
21 the case was closed.

22 On March 30, 2023, Plaintiff filed his request to reopen this case, which indicates that he
23 currently is incarcerated at the Sacramento County Mail Jail. (Doc. 20.) Plaintiff argues that the
24 case should be reopened “due to the fact that the mail service here at the jail mishandled [sic]
25 and never sent out my change of address documents.” (*Id.*) He asks that “in the interest of justice”
26 the case be allowed to proceed. (*Id.*)

27 Liberally construed, the Court will treat Plaintiff’s request as a motion for relief from
28 judgment brought under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b), which provides in pertinent part:

1 **Grounds for Relief from a Final Judgment, Order, or**
2 **Proceeding.** On motion and just terms, the court may relieve a party
3 or its legal representative from a final judgment, order, or proceeding
4 for the following reasons:

- 5 (1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect;
- 6 (2) newly discovered evidence that, with reasonable diligence, could
7 not have been discovered in time to move for a new trial under Rule
8 59(b);
- 9 (3) fraud (whether previously called intrinsic or extrinsic),
10 misrepresentation, or misconduct by an opposing party;
- 11 (4) the judgment is void;
- 12 (5) the judgment has been satisfied, released, or discharged; it is
13 based on an earlier judgment that has been reversed or vacated; or
14 applying it prospectively is no longer equitable; or
15 (6) any other reason that justifies relief.

16 A motion under subsections (1), (2), and (3) of the rule must be filed within one year; motions
17 made under the other subsections must be filed “within a reasonable time.” Fed. R. Civ. P.
18 60(c)(1). Under the catchall provision of Rule 60(b)(6), the Court has the power to reopen a
19 judgment even after one year. *Pioneer Inv. Servs. Co. v. Brunswick Associates Ltd. Partnership*,
20 507 U.S. 380, 393 (1993).

21 Reconsideration of a prior order is an extraordinary remedy “to be used sparingly in the
22 interests of finality and conservation of judicial resources.” *Kona Entres., Inc. v. Estate of Bishop*,
23 229 F.3d 977, 890 (9th Cir. 2000) (citations omitted); *see also Harvest v. Castro*, 531 F.3d 737,
24 749 (9th Cir. 2008) (addressing reconsideration under Rule 60(b)). In seeking reconsideration
25 under Rule 60, the moving party “must demonstrate both injury and circumstances beyond his
26 control.” *Harvest*, 531 F.3d at 749 (internal quotation marks & citations omitted).

27 “*A motion for reconsideration should not be granted, absent highly unusual*
28 *circumstances, unless the district court is presented with newly discovered evidence, committed*
 clear error, or if there is an intervening change in the controlling law,” and it “may not be used to
 raise arguments or present evidence for the first time when they could reasonably have been
 raised earlier in the litigation.” *Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc. v. Mucos Pharma GmbH & Co.*, 571
 F.3d 873, 880 (9th Cir. 2009) (internal quotations marks & citations omitted). Further, Local Rule

1 230(j) requires, in relevant part, that a movant show “what new or different facts or circumstances
2 are claimed to exist which did not exist or were not shown” previously, “what other grounds exist
3 for the motion,” and “why the facts or circumstances were not shown” at the time the substance
4 of the order which is objected to was considered.

5 Plaintiff’s motion does not identify any basis under Rule 60 upon which this Court should
6 reconsider its order dismissing this action. Plaintiff makes no showing of mistake, inadvertence,
7 surprise, or excusable neglect. Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(1). To the extent Plaintiff contends the jail
8 “never sent” his “Change of Address document,” Plaintiff has not provided a copy of the
9 purported change of address form or referenced the date he allegedly completed and signed such a
10 form and attempted to mail it to this Court. Nor has Plaintiff provided any other evidence of an
11 attempt to mail or file a change of address form, like an outgoing mail log. Plaintiff’s contention
12 is vague and conclusory, and therefore, he has not demonstrated injury or circumstances beyond
13 his control. *Harvest*, 531 F.3d at 749. Plaintiff does not allege any newly discovered evidence or
14 fraud. Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(2) & (3). Nor do subsections (4) or (5) of Rule 60(b) appear to be
15 applicable here. In any event, Plaintiff makes no showing in that regard. Finally, the Court finds
16 no other reason justifying relief. Fed. Civ. P. 60(b)(6).

17 In sum, Plaintiff has not set forth facts or law providing a basis upon which the Court
18 should reverse its prior decision. Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b); Local Rule 230(j). There are no
19 extraordinary or highly unusual circumstances justifying relief. *Kona Entres., Inc.*, 229 F.3d at
20 890; *Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc.*, 571 F.3d at 880. Accordingly, Plaintiff’s motion to reopen this
21 action (Doc. 20) is **DENIED**.

22
23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 Dated: April 4, 2023


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE